

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-88. (canceled)

89. (currently amended) A method for ~~suppressing differentiation of~~ culturing blood precursor cells ~~and~~ and/or hematopoietic stem cells in vitro, comprising contacting said cells in vitro with Stem Cell Factor (SCF) and a serrate-1 peptide, ~~thereby suppressing differentiation of said cells,~~ and wherein said peptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 5.

90. (currently amended) A method for ~~suppressing differentiation of~~ culturing blood precursor cells ~~and~~ and/or hematopoietic stem cells in vitro, comprising contacting said cells in vitro with Stem Cell Factor (SCF) and a serrate-1 peptide, ~~thereby suppressing differentiation of said cells,~~ and wherein said peptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 6.

91. (currently amended) A method for ~~suppressing differentiation of~~ culturing blood precursor cells ~~and~~ and/or hematopoietic stem cells in vitro, comprising contacting said cells in vitro with Stem Cell Factor (SCF) and a serrate-1

peptide, ~~thereby suppressing differentiation of said cells,~~ and wherein said peptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 7.

92-112. (canceled)

113. (currently amended) A method for ~~suppressing colony formation of~~ culturing CD 34 positive blood precursor cells in vitro, comprising contacting said cells in vitro with Stem Cell Factor (SCF) and a serrate-1 peptide, ~~thereby suppressing formation colony formation,~~ and wherein said peptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, and SEQ ID NO: 7.

114. (previously presented) The method according to claim 113, wherein said peptide is SEQ ID NO: 5.

115. (previously presented) The method according to claim 113, wherein said peptide is SEQ ID NO: 6.

116. (previously presented) The method according to claim 113, wherein said peptide is SEQ ID NO: 7.

117-118. (canceled)